

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/776,238

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : February 12, 2004

For : RETRACTING MECHANISM OF A ZOOM LENS BARREL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,
Applicant calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-021775, which was published
on January 24, 2003, together with patent family member U.S. Patent Application
Publication No. 2003/0007796 to NOMURA et al., which was published on January 9,
2003;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-282394, which was published
on October 23, 1998, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-215385, which was published
on August 10, 2001, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,469,840 to
NOMURA et al., which issued on October 22, 2002;

U.S. Patent No. 5,488,513 to TANAKA, which issued on January 30, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 5,589,987 to TANAKA, which issued on December 31, 1996;

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042089 to NOMURA, which was published on March 4, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0051971, which was published on March 18, 2004; and

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042777, which was published on March 4, 2004.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/769,925 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Cam Mechanism of a Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 3, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,298 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Structure of a Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,419 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Structure of a Zoom Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,402 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,300 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Retracting Mechanism of a Zoom Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,299 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Light Shielding Structure of a Retractable Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted applications are enclosed herewith. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the instant application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p), to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

Will Bernstein
Reg. No. 44,550

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

April 30, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Form PTO-1449	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. P24591	Serial No. 10/776,238
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant Hiroshi NOMURA et al	
		Filing Date February 12, 2004	Group Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
2003/	0 0 0 7 7 9 6	01/09/03	NOMURA et al			
	6 4 6 9 8 4 0	10/22/02	NOMURA et al			
	5 4 8 8 5 1 3	01/30/96	TANAKA			
	5 5 8 9 9 8 7	12/31/96	TANAKA			
2004/	0 0 4 2 0 8 9	03/04/04	NOMURA			
2004/	0 0 5 1 9 7 1	03/18/04	NOMURA			
2004/	0 0 4 2 7 7 7	03/04/04	NOMURA			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
2003 - 0 2 1 7 7 5	01/24/03	JAPAN			
10 - 2 8 2 3 9 4	10/23/98	JAPAN			X
2001 - 2 1 5 3 8 5	08/10/01	JAPAN			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.